

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife
Monday November 9, 2015 ● 4:00 PM
Community Center Sierra Room
851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada

Board Members

Chair – Doug Martin

Vice Chair – Stan Zuber

Member – Robert Boehmer

Member – James Powell

Member – Gil Yanuck

Staff

Jason Woodbury, District Attorney

Tamar Warren, Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the board’s agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record. These materials are on file in the Clerk-Recorder’s Office, and available for review during regular business hours.

Audio recordings of the Board’s meetings are available on www.carson.org/minutes.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

(4:00:48) – Chairperson Martin called the meeting to order. Roll was called. A quorum was present.

Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Doug Martin	Present	
Stan Zuber	Present	4:03 p.m.
Robert Boehmer	Present	
James Powell	Present	
Gil Yanuck	Present	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

(4:01:16) – None.

3. For Possible Action: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 21, 2015.

(4:01:51) – MOTION: I move to approve [the minutes of the September 21, 2015 meeting].

RESULT:	APPROVED (4-0-0)
MOVER:	Boehmer
SECONDER:	Yanuck
AYES:	Martin, Boehmer, Powell, Yanuck
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS	None
ABSENT:	Zuber

4. For Possible Action: ADOPTION OF AGENDA.

(4:02:28) – MOTION: I move to approve the agenda as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4-0-0)
MOVER:	Boehmer
SECONDER:	Yanuck
AYES:	Martin, Boehmer, Powell, Yanuck
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS	None
ABSENT:	Zuber

5. Informational Item: DISCLOSURES

(4:02:51) – None.

6. For Possible Action: UPDATE ON MULE DEER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

(4:03:26) – Chairperson Martin introduced the item and thanked Member Yanuck for his briefing during the last meeting. He also explained that he had been informed by the acting Carson City cooperative educator that 5,000 educational brochures would be printed with Cooperative Education and City funds, the majority of which will be distributed via the City’s school district. Member Boehmer added that an informal town hall educational meeting at the Capitol Building, attended by around 150 people, several Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) volunteers, and Member Boehmer, had been very informative and had generated a great discussion. Member Powell was informed that an online copy of the brochure would be available on the City’s website and on the Cooperative Extension site. Chairperson Martin explained that because deer are considered wildlife, they will be managed by NDOW. Member Yanuck noted that he had already raised the deer issue at the previous Commission meeting and encouraged bringing it up at the upcoming meeting as well. Chairperson Martin mentioned the well-funded urban deer program in Utah. Discussion ensued regarding further research on deer migratory and population counts to determine a manageable number within the City’s limits.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(4:18:29) – C.K. Baily introduced himself and suggested harvesting deer for food.

(4:19:45) – Fred Voltz expressed concern regarding the 400-700 bear population numbers by NDOW, and was skeptical of the average citizens collecting data on deer. He also believed that “killing deer doesn’t keep the number down”. Mr. Voltz suggested that residents not plant deer-attracting food sources on their properties.

(4:21:47) – Jim White introduced himself and believed residents can do “a great job” of providing good information on the urban deer population. He also noted that there are many safety concerns to drivers in Carson City.

(4:24:05) – Brian Wakeling introduced himself as the Game Chief for NDOW and offered to work with this Board. In response to a question by Member Boehmer, Mr. Wakeling explained that the urban conditions, such as lawns, vegetation, and garbage cans draw wildlife, and that most urban areas have been experiencing similar issues. He also stated that NDOW had filled two new positions based in Las Vegas and Reno to help work with communities, and welcomed the opportunity to work with this Board.

(4:28:38) – Ray Swanson introduced himself and spoke in support of a survey to be implemented by the citizens. He also informed Member Boehmer that he believed sportsmen were capable of identifying distinguishable marks on wildlife to provide “solid data”. Member Yanuck suggested helping non-sportsmen identify the deer because

they frequent the same areas. He also believed that residents can send photographs for experts to identify the deer.

7. For Possible Action: CARSON URBAN WILDLIFE, INCLUDING PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF CURRENT COYOTE PROBLEMS IN CARSON CITY; DISCUSSION OF THE UTAH WILD AWARE PROGRAM.

(4:35:38) – Chairperson Martin introduced the item and thanked the Parks and Recreation Department Director Roger Moellendorf and Deputy Director Scott Fahrenbruch for participating in the discussion. He also referred to the relevant agenda materials, incorporated into the record.

(4:37:07) – Mr. Moellendorf introduced himself and discussed the need to educate residents about wildlife. He also explained that his department was working on an urban deer policy, currently in draft form. Mr. Fahrenbruch gave background on several incidents involving coyotes in the Mexican Ditch and Riverview Park areas. He also suggested keeping dogs on leashes to minimize incidents, adding that coordination with NDOW was underway.

(4:45:02) – Member Powell received confirmation that the Riverview Park coyote incident had taken place in the resident's fenced yard, adjacent to the park. Mr. Moellendorf noted that lethal methods were not his department's priority; however, their responsibility was to provide safe trails to residents. Member Yanuck explained that the frequency of coyote sightings and attacks on pets had also increased on the west side of the City. Member Boehmer was informed that there always were human-coyote or coyote-dog issues; however, this year the incidents had "ramped up" and were "compounded by the drought". Discussion ensued regarding the FDA's responsibility in handling the problem using long-range rifles with minimal disruption. Chairperson Martin referred to a handout, incorporated into the record, regarding lush landscapes creating an environment for wildlife and predators such as coyotes. Mr. Moellendorf thanked this Board for their support in wildlife education and Chairperson Martin encouraged everyone to visit the very informative Wild Aware Utah website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(5:02:15) – Mr. Baily noted that a cylindrical device was used in many communities as an attachment to chain-link fences to prevent wildlife from scaling it to enter a property. Mr. Voltz presented a more current study in Denver, incorporated into the record, which focused on non-lethal solutions to the coyote problems. He also suggested taking steps towards "responsible human behaviors" such as mandatory leash laws and outside enclosures that help protect pets. Further discussion ensued regarding leash laws and Chairperson Martin ensured the public that this Board did not have an official position on leash laws; however, members had their own opinions. Jim White introduced himself and inquired about coyote incidents after the elimination of the three aggressive coyotes near Riverview Park. Mr. Fahrenbruch noted that there had been an unconfirmed report of a dog being bit. Jim Davis also introduced himself and stated that most of the coyote issues in small towns, such as Austin, Nevada, occurred when they were not hunted. He also responded to a question by observing that the rabbit population had not decreased as the coyote population grew, and attributed it to the increased ponds and vegetation. Mr. Swanson recounted his personal experiences of having bears in his house and coyotes killing his chickens. He also spoke in favor of trapping. Mr. Fahrenbruch noted that he had had conversations with "Project Coyote" and with the City of Aurora, Colorado and believed that public education was the key.

8. For Possible Action: DISCUSSION REGARDING NDOW'S GUIDELINES FOR HARVEST MANAGEMENT IN NEVADA. *It has been reported that county advisory boards to manage wildlife are not receiving sufficient public input regarding hunting seasons and harvest quotas; the Department has requested feedback regarding the CAB's efforts to increase public input.*

(5:26:21) – Chairperson Martin introduced the item and invited Mr. Wakeling to join the discussion. Mr. Wakeling gave an overview of the wildlife management efforts by NDOW, noting that he had been with the

Department for over a year. He also clarified that their role was to support the County Advisory Boards (CABs) and not circumvent their efforts, giving several town hall meetings as an example. Chairperson Martin wished to see more participation from Carson City sportsmen and invited them to provide input. Mr. Wakeling explained that the hunting seasons and the dates will be set in the January meeting and encouraged public input. Chairperson Martin gave examples of how other areas adjusted their hunts. In response to a question by Member Boehmer, Mr. Wakeling explained that they are looking for “acceptable solutions” to certain hunts, especially the ones that are overcrowded. Member Yanuck described how interested members of the public are able to attend CAB meetings or receive meeting information and invited them to these meetings. Chairperson Martin reminded everyone that the January 25, 2016 CAB meeting will address big game seasons and regulations proposed by NDOW. He also thanked Mr. Wakeling for attending this meeting and for his input.

9. For Possible Action: DISCUSSION REGARDING NON-REGULATORY AGENDA ITEMS OF THE NOVEMBER 13 AND 14, 2015 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS MEETING. *Other than item 8, the remaining items on the attached November 13 and 14, 2015 Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners agenda typically require no action of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Occasionally, one or more advisory board members may have a desire to discuss these items and such discussion may result in action in the form of advice or a recommendation by this advisory board to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. There will be no public comment unless action will be taken on an item.*

(5:53:58) – Chairperson Martin introduced the item. Member Boehmer suggested discussing item 6 of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner’s Meeting agenda, incorporated into the record, with a time limit in order not to prolong the discussion. Member Yanuck clarified that this CAB is able to provide input; however, the decision rested entirely on the Commission and Member Boehmer noted that this was his intention. Mr. Woodbury confirmed that the Board could discuss and take action to support the item or not. Chairperson Martin noted that the petition was posted on the NDOW website. Member Boehmer wished to hear public opinion, beyond his personal one, on the item as he would represent this CAB at the Commission’s next meeting. Discussion ensued regarding each member’s opinion on the petition to ban wildlife killing contests involving mammals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(6:09:41) – Jim White introduced himself and explained that he was not a “varmint hunter”; however, he was not opposed to the hunt due to the other costly measures of controlling them. Paul White also introduced himself and expressed his opposition to the petition, especially now with the issues of dealing with nuisance coyotes. Mr. Swanson believed that the contests are a good way of controlling the coyote population. Mr. Voltz noted that he was one of the petitioners and expressed his support for the petition because it showed respect for wildlife and because the contests were not sound ways of managing the issues. Chairperson Zuber received confirmation that Mr. Voltz agreed with all the attachments to the petition. He also questioned the scientific evidence needed to support the hunts. Mr. Davis believed that the contests were a cost-effective way of controlling the coyotes.

(6:17:58) – MOTION: I move that the Carson City Advisory Board [to Manage Wildlife] present what [opposition to the petition] we heard today.

(6:19:52) – Member Boehmer explained that he had spoken to other members of the community and had received similar feedback opposing the petition. Member Powell also stated that he had received nine phone calls in opposition of the petition.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Yanuck
SECONDER:	Boehmer
AYES:	Martin, Zuber, Boehmer, Powell, Yanuck
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS	None
ABSENT:	None

10. For Possible Action: DISCUSSION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENT(S) TO THE JANUARY 29 AND 30, 2016 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING IN LAS VEGAS.

(6:21:50) – Member Yanuck offered to attend the meeting if no other members are able to attend.

11. Informational Item: NEXT CCABMW MEETING.

(11:22:02) – The next meeting of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners is scheduled for January 29 and 30, 2016 in Las Vegas. The next meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife is, therefore, tentatively scheduled for Monday, January 25, 2016.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(6:22:51) – Member Yanuck wished to continue receiving updates, especially counts and locations, regarding urban deer based on the discussion in this meeting. Member Powell requested an update on the rifle range improvements. He also suggested exploring the use of drones to take an informal census of the urban deer.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

(6:27:10) – Mr. Voltz requested the use of video conferencing in lieu of attending the Commission meetings in person. He also suggested that the Board members also solicit input from non-sportsmen regarding wildlife issues.

14. For Possible Action: ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT

(6:28:39) – **Vice Chairperson Zuber moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Member Boehmer.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

The minutes of the November 9, 2015 meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are approved this 25th day of January, 2016.

DOUG MARTIN, Chair